

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of shredding a block of material comprising cheese, the method comprising:
rotating a drum about an axis, the drum having a plurality of blades configured to cut the block of material thereon; and
feeding the block of material in a feed plane toward the drum in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being substantially perpendicular to the axis about which the drum rotates, and
cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the plurality of blades.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with an arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a mechanical arm.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.
6. (Cancel)
7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

8. (Currently amended) A method of shredding a block of material comprising cheese, the method comprising:
- providing a shredding unit having blades configured to cut the block of material revolving about an axis;
 - rotating the blades about the axis, wherein the blades define a cutting perimeter;
 - moving the block of material toward the cutting perimeter on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to ~~and rotated about 90° from~~ the axis about which the blades move; and
 - cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the blades.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein ~~placing~~ moving the block of material comprises placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material ~~comprises moving the material~~ with an arm that forces the block of material in the ~~feed~~ feeding direction.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the block of material with a mechanical arm.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of material comprises placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein moving the block of material comprises placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material ~~comprises placing the block of material~~ on a bottom belt to support the bottom surface of the block of material, the bottom belt conveying the block of material in the feed direction.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 8 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

16. (Currently amended) A method of forming shreds of cheese, the method comprising:

moving at least one cutting blade about an axis;

moving a block of cheese in a feed direction toward the at least one cutting blade, the feed direction being generally perpendicular to ~~and rotated about 90° from~~ the axis about which the at least one cutting blade moves; and

cutting shreds of cheese from a front face of the block of cheese.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein moving at least one cutting blade about an axis comprises rotating a drum having a plurality of cutting blades on the drum.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18 further comprising:

forming a continuous sheet of cheese on a belt; and

cutting the sheet along ~~its~~ a width of the continuous sheet of cheese to form the plurality of ribbons of cheese.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16 further comprising forming the block of cheese by extruding the cheese into a solid block.